

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bishop Johnston would like you to hear his statement:

While we welcome this week's good news for the value of human life, it is important to remember that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision regarding *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* does not put a universal end to abortion. Decisions about access to abortion now reside with our state governments. This Supreme Court decision does not change abortion access in the State of Missouri. The diocese stands ready to meet the increased demand for resources that may result with a renewed focus on alternatives to abortion.

The Catholic Church's opposition to abortion is well-documented and has not wavered. The Catholic Church is also the world's largest provider of resources to mothers, fathers and families facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, regardless of their faith tradition, through Catholic Charities' Child and Family Services, many smaller organizations and parish commitments across the globe. Anyone affected by abortion in our area will still have the same resources available to them regardless of this change in federal law. We also expect new resources and improved access to them will develop in the coming months.

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph will continue its commitment to defend the dignity of every human person and the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. This includes redoubling our efforts to compassionately accompany mothers and fathers who are facing unplanned or difficult pregnancies, as well as to offer compassion and mercy to those suffering from abortion.

Bishop James Johnston, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

Both sides of the abortion controversy hold high regard for parents of young children. They resemble the example of young Elisha in today's first reading. God told Elijah the prophet to anoint Elisha as his successor. Elijah found him out plowing, walking behind twelve yoke of oxen. As soon as young Elisha realized what was happening, he asked permission to kiss his parents goodbye, which he received. Then he did more: He slaughtered the oxen, set fire to the yokes, boiled water, stirred in the ox meat, and fed his people with it. "Then Elisha left and followed Elijah as his attendant." Not only did Elisha walk away from his past, he ended it with a flourish that benefited the people he loved. Jesus, quoting the Book of Genesis, said something similar about marriage: It is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to a wife (Matt 19:5). In marriage and in parenting people forsake some comforts and responsibilities in exchange for new ones that benefit the people they love. We all hold high regard for parents who sacrifice for the sake of their children.

Some Americans, including some people of faith, disagree with the Supreme Court's decision, and some Americans may find themselves unprepared for a world where abortion is more difficult to obtain. Like young Elisha, they may suddenly be invited into a service they did not expect; unlike him, they may not be so convinced to accept the challenge. Our church stands with all parents and with children who possess the right to life.

Sunday, June 26, 2022